Statement-II

Major Recommendations of Task Force Committee on Micro Irrigation

i) A total of 17 million ha. need to be covered under Micro Irrigation in the country by the end of XI Plan including 3 million ha. during X Plan.

ii) Financial Assistance should be available on all crops.

iii) The rate of financial assistance to the farmers should be 50% of unit cost.

iv) Out of this 50%, 40% share of assistance should be from GoI and the balance 10% will be contributed by the respective State Governments.

v) The States may raise their share through RIDF loan from NABARD.

vi) The funds need to be released through States with full proof method and the main focus will be the farmers.

vii) There should be tax concessions to make the system affordable by farmers.

Availability of quality seeds to farmers

732. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that good quality seeds are not made available to the farmers in time during the sowing seasons in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to strengthen the mechanism of making good quality seeds available to farmers in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Uttar Pradesh has indicated a surplus seed availability in major crops for Kharif 2009, *i.e.*, Paady, Urd, Moong, Arhar and Groundnut, Marginal regional shortfall reported in Maize, Til, Bajra, Jowar in Kharif 2009 has been tied up/can be easily met from available national surplus. Bihar has reported State level shortfall in Paddy and Arhar only. The State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI) and National Seeds Corporation (NSC) had immediately indicated availability of Paddy and Arhar seeds to the State to meet the shortfall.

(b) Assistance for seed sector is provided under the following schemes of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation:

i. Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA).

ii. National Food Security Mission (NFSM)

iii. Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM)

iv. Technology Mission on Cotton.

v. Technology Mission on Jute and Mesta.

vi. Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds.

vii. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

The components covered under the Scheme are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Components related to seed covered under Government of India (GOI) Schemes

i. Seed Production Subsidy (MMA, NFSM, ISOPOM, Technology Mission on Cotton, Technology Mission on Jute and Mesta, Seed Division Scheme)

ii. Seed Distribution Subsidy (MMA, NFSM, ISOPOM, Seed Division Scheme)

iii. Seed Treatment (MMA, Technology Mission on Cotton, Plant Protection)

iv. Support to Research (NFSM, Seed Division Scheme, ISOPOM)

v. Agricultural Infrastructure (Seed Processing and Seed Storage godowns). (Seed Division Scheme).

vi. Strengthening of State Seed Certification Agencies. (Seed Division Scheme).

vii. Strengthening of Quality Control *viz.* Strengthening of Seed Testing Laboratories/State Seed Certification Agencies. (Seed Division Scheme).

  a. Grow-out Test farm.

  b. Establishment of Hi-tech DNA Testing Laboratory.

  c. Facilities for Hybridity/GM Crop Testing and Installation of Facilities for Conducting DNA Finger Print Test.

viii. Financial Assistance to obtain Membership of ISTA/OECD and Boosting Seed Export. (Seed Division Scheme).

ix. Seed Village with components of Seed Storage Bin and Training. (Seed Division Scheme).

x. Transport Subsidy for Movement of Seeds to the North Eastern and Other Hill Areas (all certified seeds excluding Potato) (Seed Division Scheme).

xi. Biotechnology in Agriculture *viz.* Upgradation of Laboratory to Test BT Gene. (Seed Division Scheme).

xii. Establishment/Strengthening of Tissue Culture Laboratory. (Seed Division Scheme).

xiii. Establishment and Maintenance of Seed Bank. (Seed Division Scheme).

xiv. Assistance to Private Sector to Produce Seed. (Seed Division Scheme).

Consumption of organic food

†733.SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the organic food items are hygienic as there are no residues of pesticides and chemical fertilizers in these items;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi